



Brownfields 2015 Area-Wide Planning Grant Fact Sheet

St. Helens, OR

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through competitive grant programs for brownfields site assessment, site cleanup, revolving loan funds, area-wide planning, and job training. Additional funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Program

EPA's Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Program assists communities in responding to local brownfields challenges, particularly where multiple brownfield sites are in close proximity, connected by infrastructure, and limit the economic, environmental and social prosperity of their surroundings. This program enhances EPA's core brownfields assistance programs by providing grant funding to communities so they can perform the research needed to develop an area-wide plan and implementation strategies for brownfields assessment, cleanup, and reuse. The resulting area-wide plans provide direction for future brownfields area improvements that are protective of public health and the environment, economically viable, and reflective of the community's vision for the area.

Project Description

\$200,000.00

EPA has selected the City of St. Helens as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant recipient. The city will work with the community and other stakeholders to develop an area-wide plan and implementation strategy for the downtown waterfront district project area. Consisting of 905.4 acres, the waterfront area is characterized by underutilized industrial properties. Mill closures in 2008 and 2012 devastated the local economy in the project area, which has higher poverty and unemployment rates than state and national averages. The city will build upon existing planning activities that the community has already developed for initiatives such as new business creation, development of transportation links, and housing rehabilitation. The Area-Wide Planning project will focus on addressing brownfields along the city's downtown waterfront, particularly the Veneer Plant and White Paper Mill catalyst sites. The project also will organize community engagement activities, conduct research on the condition of the catalyst properties, carry out site-specific redevelopment assessments, and develop an implementation approach. Key partners who will work with the city on this project include various public, private, and non-profit entities, including Boise Cascade, St. Helens Economic Development Corporation, and the Port of St. Helens.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 10 Brownfields Team
(206) 553-7299
EPA Region 10 Brownfields Web site

(<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-washington-idaho-oregon-and-alaska>)

Grant Recipient: City of St. Helens, OR
(503) 397-6272

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.